

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) An electronic system, comprising:
a first circuit board supporting a plurality of blade elements that each include respective electronic circuitry;
a second circuit board;
~~for distributing~~ power and control signals distributed by said second circuit board to said plurality of blade elements coupled to said first circuit board;
said first circuit board being disposed on a first side of said second circuit board;
said second circuit board comprising a plurality of slots and said plurality of blade elements are coupled through said slots and engage connectors disposed on a second side of said second circuit board; and
at least one heat sink attached to said first circuit board and contacting electronic components on said second circuit board.

22. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 21 wherein at least one of said first and second circuit boards comprises stop structures for maintaining a predetermined distance between said first and second circuit boards.

23. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 21 wherein each blade element comprises a plurality of contacts to receive power and control signals through a respective connector of said second circuit board.

24. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 21 further comprising:
a locking mechanism to maintain a physical coupling between said first and second circuit boards.

25. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 24 wherein said locking mechanism is a latch.

26. (Currently Amended) An electronic system, comprising:
means for supporting a plurality of blade elements that each include respective electronic circuitry;
means for distributing power and control signals to said plurality of blade elements coupled to said means for supporting;
power and control signals distributed to said plurality of blade elements by said means for distributing;
wherein said means for supporting is disposed on a first side of said means for distributing, said means for distributing comprises a plurality of slots, and said plurality of blade elements are coupled through said slots and engage connectors disposed on a second side of said means for distributing; and
means for dissipating heat generated by electronics of said means for distributing, wherein said means for dissipating is attached to said means for supporting.

27. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 26 wherein at least one of said means for supporting and said means for distributing comprises a plurality of stop structures for maintaining a predetermined distance between said means for supporting and said means for distributing.

28. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 26 wherein each blade element comprises a plurality of contacts to receive power and control signals through a respective connector of said means for distributing.

29. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of claim 26 further comprising:
means for locking said means for supporting and said means for distributing.

30. (New) An electronic system, comprising:
a first circuit board supporting a plurality of blade elements that each include respective electronic circuitry;
a second circuit board for distributing power and control signals to said plurality of blade elements coupled to said first circuit board;
said first circuit board being disposed on a first side of said second circuit board;

said second circuit board comprising a plurality of slots and said plurality of blade elements are coupled through said slots and engage connectors disposed on a second side of said second circuit board;

at least one heat sink attached to said first circuit board and contacting electronic components on said second circuit board; and

wherein said control signals are bi-directional control signals being one of data signals and power signals that can be passed back and forth through one or more of said blades.

31. (New) The electronic system of claim 30 wherein at least one of said first and second circuit boards comprises stop structures for maintaining a predetermined distance between said first and second circuit boards.

32. (New) The electronic system of claim 30 wherein each blade element comprises a plurality of contacts to receive said control signals through a respective connector of said second circuit board.

33. (New) The electronic system of claim 30 further comprising:
a locking mechanism to maintain a physical coupling between said first and second circuit boards.

34. (New) The electronic system of claim 33 wherein said locking mechanism is a latch.